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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,857	11/26/2003	Prathyusha K. Salla	132958XX-D/YOD GEMS:0264	9694
68174	7590	08/22/2007	EXAMINER MEHTA, PARIKHA SOLANKI	
GE HEALTHCARE c/o FLETCHER YODER, PC P.O. BOX 692289 HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289			ART UNIT 3737	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/22/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/723,857

Applicant(s)

SALLA ET AL.

Examiner

Parikha S. Mehta

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendments to the specification, filed 22 February 2007, are sufficient to overcome the previous objections to various informalities. Accordingly, the objections to the specification are hereby withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. 101 have been considered but are moot in view of Applicant's concurrently filed amendments to the claims. These amendments to the independent claims of the instant application are effective to overcome the previous rejection of claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. 101. Accordingly, this rejection hereby with drawn.
3. Applicant's decision to defer response to the rejection of claims 1-40 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting is acknowledged. However, since Applicant has failed to file a terminal disclaimer or otherwise take action to overcome this rejection, it is maintained.
4. Applicant's arguments regarding the objections to claims 5-8, 13-16, 21-24, 29-32 and 37-40 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1-4,9-12, 17-20, 25-28 and 33-36 are persuasive. Accordingly, the objection is hereby withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

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Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-40 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-32 of copending Application No. 10/723,894 in view of Huesman et al. (Preliminary studies of cardiac motion in positron emission tomography. *Report LBNL-41433, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*. March 29, 2001.). The instant application claims methods and systems for combined retrospective and prospective gating. The conflicting application claims methods and systems for retrospective gating only. Huesman (2001) teaches the advantages of combined gating (Abstract). It would be obvious to one of reasonable skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the co-pending invention to further include prospective gating means and methods, in view of the teachings of Huesman (2001).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huesman et al (Preliminary studies of cardiac motion in positron emission tomography. *Report LBNL-41433, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*. March 29, 2001.), hereinafter Huesman (2001). Huesman (2001) discloses an imaging system, which must inherently contain a computer program, and a method for imaging the heart with means and steps for double-gating the image data for both respiratory and cardiac motion correction (Abstract). Huesman (2001) discloses means and steps for acquiring motion data for the lungs and the heart using both an EKG and a pneumatic bellows apparatus (p. 6 ¶ 1), which constitute an electrical sensor with measurement system, and a non-electrical sensor with measurement system, respectively, as claimed in the instant application. Huesman (2001) extracts two prospective gating points, end inspiration and end expiration, and two retrospective gating points, end-diastole and end-systole (Fig. 7). Huesman (2001) also discloses means and steps for acquiring image data of the heart and subsequently processing a portion of the image data to compensate for motion artifacts, including means and steps for reconstructing and displaying the image (Fig. 7, p. 9 ¶ 1).

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10. Examiner hereby acknowledges Applicant's invocation of paragraph 6 of 35 U.S.C. section 112 in claims 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 28, 36, and 40. However, all means and steps recited in these claims are anticipated by the Huesman (2001) reference as discussed above.

Conclusion

11. The prior art previously made of record and not relied upon is still considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Parikha S. Mehta whose telephone number is 571.272.3248. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571.272.4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Parikha S. Mehta

Examiner – Art Unit 3737



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